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LETTER DATED 17 SEPTEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued over the period 1 to 15 September 1997 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

Your intervention is requested with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 1-15 September 1997

1. In the northern region 98 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following cities and towns: Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Zakho, Amadiyah, Ayn Sifni, Tall Kayf, Badush, Sarsank and Kalak.

2. In the southern region 701 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Basrah, Chabaish, Artawi, Rifa'i, Busayyah, Shinafiyah, Qurnah, Lasaf, Rumaythah, Hamzah, Shu'aybah, Khidr, Rahhaliyah, Jabal Sanam, Diwaniyah, Suq al-Shuyukh, Jalibah, Taqtaqanah, Nukhayb, Batha', Shatrah and Ushbayjah.

3. On 15 occasions United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 20,000 metres violated the Republic of Iraq's airspace in the southern region before leaving in the direction of Kuwait.

4. At 1320 hours on 1 September 1997 a United States two-aircraft formation broke the sound barrier over Qurnah.

5. At 1930 hours on 1 September 1997 a helicopter from the United States frigate Rentz (No. 46) overflew Mina' al-Bakr.

6. At 0750 hours on 4 September 1997 and at 1555 hours on 6 September 1997 a United States two-aircraft formation broke the sound barrier over Nasiriyah.

7. At 1335 hours on 4 September 1997 a helicopter from United States frigate No. 55 circled over Mina' al-Bakr.

8. At 1440 hours on 9 September 1997 a United States two-aircraft formation broke the sound barrier over Basrah.

9. At 1015 hours on 9 September 1997 two helicopters from a United States naval unit circled over Mina' al-Bakr.